pixels of the image pickup element 214, and the CPU 220 writes the YCbCr image data from the image processing circuit 218 into an image development area 232a of a RAM 232. The CPU 220 also compresses the image data in the image development area 232a by a method based on the JPEG standard, and writes the compressed data in a folder prepared in advance in a flash memory 234 with a file name consisting of numerical data such as an arbitrary number of date data. Such folder is given a folder name based on a DCF (Design rule for Camera File system) standard of the digital still camera. The taken images are written in succession into such folder. In case of image taking by mounting the same memory card in a camera of another type, there is automatically prepared another file into which the taken image are stored.

The operation program and fixed data for the CPU 220 are stored in a ROM 236. There are also provided a chargeable battery 238 constituting a power source, and a DC/DC converter 240 for converting the output voltage of the battery 238 for supply to the CPU 220 and other circuit blocks. The CPU 220 is connected to a USB connector 244 through a USB module 242.

In the following there will be explained a reproduction mode for reproducing and displaying the taken image. When the image reproduction mode is selected by an unrepresented operation mode designation

switch, the CPU 220 activates the LCD display device 222 thereby putting it in a standby state. The CPU 220 displays the folders, belonging to the apparatus and contained in the flash memory 234, in the image area of the LCD display device 222, and causes the operator to select one of the folders. When an image file to be displayed is designated after the folder selection, the CPU 220 reads and expands the designated file from the memory 234 and applies the YCrCb image data to the LCD control circuit 226. The LCD control circuit 226 once stores the YCrCb image data from the CPU 220 into the VRAM 228 after conversion into the RGB format, and then reads the image data from the VRAM 228 for supply to the display control circuit 224, which drives the LCD display device 222 according to the RGB data from the LCD control circuit 226. In this state, a reproduced image is displayed in the entire image area of 640 × 480 pixels of the LCD display device 222.

In case the image folder is not designated after the folder selection, the CPU 220 reads the image files of a designated number from the oldest date of image pickup, expands such image files and supplies the LCD control circuit 226 with the YCrCb image skipped to a smaller thumbnail size of 80 × 60 pixels. The LCD control circuit 226 converts the YCbCr image data of the plural images from the CPU 220 in succession into the RGB format, writes them into the VRAM 228 for

simultaneous display, and then reads the image data of the plural thumbnail images from the VRAM 228 for supply to the display drive circuit 224 for the display in the wire image area. The display drive circuit 224 drives the LCD display device 222 according to the RGB data from the LCD control circuit 226, whereby plural thumbnail images are simultaneously displayed on the image area of 640 × 480 pixels of the LCD display device 222.

The CPU 220 also supplies the LCD control circuit 226 with image data including for example a warning for the remaining battery capacity and various control messages, and the LCD control circuit 226 converts such image data into the RGB format and stores them in an address of the VRAM 228 corresponding to a display position, whereby the warning for the remaining battery capacity etc. is displayed in a predetermined position in the image area of the LCD display device 222.

The CPU 220 can transfer the data, stored in the flash memory 234, to a device connected to the USB connector 244, such as a computer. For example a USB cable is connected to the UUSB connector 244, then a PC connection mode is set by the unrepresented operation mode designating switch and the other end of the USB cable is connected to the USB connector of the computer. Upon connection of the USB cable, the